

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 1534

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING, FEB 20, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE AHG MET UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF ITALINA REP, CAGIATI AND APPROVED PLENARY STATEMENTS ON STABILIZING MEASURES AND SECURITY OF THE SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS. US REP DISTRIBUTED PAPER CONTAINING TALKING POINTS FOR THE 20 FEBRUARY EMISSARY MEETING WHICH WERE SLIGHTLY REVISED AT SUGGESTION OF NETHERLAND'S REP. IN DISCUSSION OF THE PROJECTED STATEMENT ON SECURITY OF THE SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS, TURKEY AND NORWAY ARGUED TO INCLUDE REFERENCES TO THE FORCE DISPARITIES OUTSIDE OF THE NGA. THE US/UK SUCCESSFULLY ARGUED THAT SUCH REFERENCES OPENED THE DOOR FOR THE SOVIETS TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF US
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FORCES IN THE UK, MEDITERRANEAN, AND THE 6TH FLEET, AND THE

POINT WAS FINALLY DROPPED. END SUMMARY.

2. BILATERAL: ONLY BILATERAL REPORTED WAS ON MEETING OF NETHERLANDS REP, QUARLES, AND THE ROMANIANS. NETHERLANDS REP STATED THE ROMANIANS HAD REPEATED THEIR NOW FAMILIAR PATTERN OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE INFORMAL EMISSARY MEETINGS, ABOUT THEIR INABILITY TO GET THEIR IDEAS INTO SUCH A FORUM, AND THE NEED INSTEAD FOR OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUPS OR SOME LESS RESTRICTIVE FORUM. NETHERLANDS REP HAD SYMPATHIZED WITH THE ROMANIANS, BUT INSISTED THAT INFORMAL MEETINGS WERE USEFUL TO THE WEST AND THAT WESTERN PARTICIPANTS ALL FELT THEY WERE PROPERLY REPRESENTED IN SUCH MEETINGS. HE REPEATED PREVIOUS OFFERS TO KEEP THE ROMANIANS INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS AT SUCH MEETINGS. HE SAID ROMANIANS HAD AGAIN INDICATED THEY MIGHT HAVE TO SPEAK OUT IN OPPOSITION TO THE INFORMAL MEETINGS AT A PLENARY.

3. TALKING POINTS FOR 20 FEBRUARY INFORMAL SESSION: CHAIRMAN ASKED FOR COMMENT ON AND APPROVAL OF REVISED TALKINGPOINTS FOR USE AT 20 FEBRUARY INFORMAL SESSION. NETHERLANDS REP ASKED THAT THE SECTION ON AN ALLIED RESPONSE CONCERNING THE NON-PREJUDICIAL NATURE OF THE PROCEDUAL PROPOSAL BE EXPANDED TO CLARIFY THAT NOT ONLY THE SELECTION OF A STARTING TOPIC WOULD BE NON-PREJUDICIAL TO BOTH SIDES, BUT THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE TOPIC WOULD ALSO BE WITHOUT COMMITMENT OF EITHER SIDE. THIS WAS ACCEPTED AND THE TALKING POINTS WERE APPROVED BY THE GROUP WITHOUT FURTHER DISCUSSION.

4. DRAFT PRESENTATION ON SECURITY OF SPECIAL PARTICIPANTS. CHAIRMAN NEXT ASKED FOR COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT STATEMENT ON FLANK SECURITY FOR INCLUSION IN THE FRG PRESENTATION ON FEBRUARY 21.

A. TURKISH DEP REP (UNAN) SPOKE IN DEFENSE OF THE DRAFTING GROUP PRODUCT ARGUING THAT IT WAS MORE GENERAL THAN THE TURKISH DELEGATION WOULD HAVE PREFERRED,BUT MET THEIR OVERALL CONCERN AND WAS THE BEST POSSIBLE PROUDCT SINCE THE FULL DETAILS OF A METHOD OF DEALING WITH THE SUBJECT HAD NOT YET BEEN AGREED IN NATO.

B. US REP SUGGESTED A REVISION TO LANGUAGE WHICH SPOKE OF DIS-CONFIDENTIAL

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PARTIES OUTSIDE OF THE AGREED AREA OF REDUCTIONS. HE ARGUED IT WOULD BE MOST UNWISE TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT, AS IT OFFERED THE SOVIETS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW UP ON THEIR ALREADY DECLARED PREFERENCE TO CONSIDER THE TOTAL BALANCE OF FORCES WORLDWIDE, AS WELL AS THEIR CONSTANT SALT REFERENCES TO US FORCES IN THE UK, IN THE MED, THE FORWARD SLEM BASES IN SPAIN, ETC. US REP STATED ANY ADVANTAGES GAINED BY THE WEST IN RAISING THIS ISSUE FOR TURKEY, NORWAY AND DENMARK, WOULD BE

FAR OUTWEIGHED BY THE SOVIET OPPORTUNITIES TO WIDEN THE DISCUSSIONS. HE NOTED THAT THE AREA WAS ONE OF THE FEW THINGS CURRENTLY AGREED ON BY BOTH SIDES AND THAT SUCH AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT BE ENDANGERED.

C. TURKISH REP AND DEP REP COUNTERED THAT THE PARAGRAPH WAS IN THEIR EYES ESSENTIAL AND THE US REP REVISION TOO DRASTIC. THE PARAGRAPH, THEY ARGUED, ONLY STATED A FACT AND THAT FACT WAS IMPORTANT TO THEM. NORWEGIAN ACTING REP (BRYNTESSEN) AND GREEK DEP REP, (NEZIRITIS) SUPPORTED THE TURKISH VIEWPOINT. THEY WERE WILLING TO DROP ANY OFFENSIVE WORDS SUCH AS "DISPARITY" BUT FELT THE GIST OF THE PARAGRAPH MUST REMAIN AND WOULD BE LOST BY THE US SUGGESTED REVISION.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENNA 1534

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FROM US REP MBFR

D. ITALIAN REP AND UK REP (ROSE) SUPPORTED US SUGGESTION, UK REP SAID HE STRONGLY SYMPATHIZED WITH FLANK CONCERNS, ESPECIALLY IN NORTHERN REGION WHERE

DISPARITIES WERE QUITE LARGE, YET, AS US REP HAD SAID, HE FELT THERE WERE CLEARLY MORE DISADVANTAGES THAN ADVANTAGES TO THE WEST AS THE PAPER WAS CURRENTLY DRAFTED.

E. DISCUSSION WAS EXTENSIVE WITH SEVERAL REVISIONS SUGGESTED BY US, UK, ITALY AND FRG REPS. FINALLY, GROUP AGREED TO DELETE REFERENCES TO GEOGRAPHICAL FACTORS AND DISPARITIES.

F. CHAIR INVITED GROUPS' ATTENTION TO TWO BRACKETED SENTENCES DEALING WITH ISSUE OF WHETHER AN MBFR AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE TO CONTAIN A SPECIFIC CONFIDENTIAL

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MEASURE ON THE FLANK ISSUE. TURKISH DEP REP MADE A STRONG PLEA FOR THE FORMULATION, WHICH STATED THAT "THIS PROBLEM SHOULD SATISFACTORILY BE COVERED IN THE AGREEMENTS." US DEP REP SUGGESTED A REVISION SUBSTITUTING "TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT" FOR THE WORD "COVERED." HE ARGUED THIS PROVIDED FOR ANY OUTCOME WHICH MIGHT BE REACHED IN BRUSSELS WHILE THE ORIGINAL TENDED TO ANTICIPATE A PENDING BRUSSELS DECISION.

5. FRG PLENARY PRESENTATION OF 21 FEBRUARY ON STABILIZING MEASURES. THE CHAIRMAN ASKED THE AHG MEMBERS FOR THEIR COMMENTS ON THE REVISED VERSION OF THE PLENARY STATEMENT ON STABILIZING MEASURES TO BE MADE BY THE FRG REP ON 21 FEBRUARY (SEE SEPTTEL). THE NETHERLANDS REP STATED THAT WHILE HE AGREED WITH THE LINE OF ARGUMENT OF THE PRESENTATION THAT STABILIZING MEASURES ARE LINKED WITH THE REDUCTION OF FORCES, HE BELIEVED THAT THE WESTERN PRESENTATION DID NOT DRAW THIS LINK CLEARLY ENOUGH. HE SAID THE BASES FOR SUCH A LINK WOULD BE FOUND IN THE FACTS THAT: A) WHEN FORCES ARE REDUCED, THE PARTICIPANTS WOULD WANT MORE INFORMATION ON MILITARY MOVEMENTS AND EXERCISES AND WOULD WANT TO INCREASE THEIR WARNING TIME IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTACK, AND B) WHEN THE DEFENSE FORCES ON EACH SIDE HAD BEEN REDUCED, STABILIZING MEASURES BECOME MORE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY FAVOR THE DEFENDER. THE NETHERLANDS REP WENT ON TO NOTE THAT BESIDES BEING LINKED TO REDUCTIONS, THE STABILIZING MEASURES ARE ALSO CLOSELY LINKED TO THE WIDER AIM OF ACHIEVING GREATER STABILITY IN EUROPE. AFTER MINOR CHANGES, THE TEXT WAS APPROVED. THE SHAPE REP INTERJECTED, THAT THE AD HOC GROUP MEMBERS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FACT THAT FROM THE MILITARY POINT OF VIEW THE VALUE OF THE STABILIZING MEASURES UNDER CONSIDERATION IS NOT VERY GREAT, PARTICULARLY IF

THESE MEASURES ARE NOT COMBINED WITH
ADEQUATE VERIFICATION MEASURES. HE SAID THEY MIGHT
ONLY RING A BELL. CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT SUCH A BELL RING
MIGHT PROVE VERY USEFUL AND BESIDES ALLIES WERE COMMITTED
TO SEEKING SUCH MEASURES.

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6. OTHER ITEMS. THE UK REP STATED THAT IT WAS HIS
UNDERSTANDING THAT ON 27 FEBRUARY THE SOVIET REPS
MIGHT BE AVAILABLE FOR ANOTHER INFORMAL MULTILATEAL
MEETING, CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS REPORTS. THE CHAIRMAN
SUGGESTED THAT IT STILL MIGHT BE DESIRABLE TO SHIFT
THE INFORMAL MEETINGS FROM WEDNESDAY NIGHTS TO OTHER
NIGHTS SO AS TO LESSEN THE APPEARANCE OF INSTITUTION-
ALIZATION IN DEFERENCE TO ROMANIAN CONCERNS. THE
US REP URGED A SPECIFIC DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING
SHOULD BE SET IN THE COURSE OF THE 20 FEBRUARY
MEETING DEPENDING ON HOW THE CONVERSATION DEVELOPED.
THAT THEN, IF NECESSARY, IT COULD ALWAYS BE DELAYED.
THE GROUP AGREED THAT THIS APPROACH WAS ACCEPTABLE.
THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP WAS SET FOR FEBRUARY 21.
HUMES

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